

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-21, 32, 33, 35-41, and 47-52 are pending in this application.

The present response is a reply to the unofficial Office Communication of November 19, 2003, received by Applicant's counsel by facsimile on November 25, 2003. The present response is not a response to any Official Action, as Applicant has not received an Official Action since the Official Action dated July 20, 2000. The present response places the claims in the appropriate reissue format, as requested by the Office Communication of November 19, 2003.

In preparing the present response, Applicant discovered that the Claim 19 incorrectly depended from cancelled Claim 13. This Amendment corrects Claim 19 to properly depend from Claim 11.

Also enclosed please find a supplemental declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.175(a), executed by the inventor. The supplemental declaration properly claims priority of the Japanese Patent Application No. 4-103450. The supplemental declaration also states that all errors corrected since the first declaration (during prosecution and including the present amendment) arose without any deceptive intent on the part of the applicant.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

GJM/SNS/EWT

I:\ATTY\ET\05574223\05574223-AMD1.DOC